7th Visual Arts Syllabus

Ms. Stephens

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**Course Description:**

This semester long art course reinforces the creative process and foundation learned in 5th and 6th grade Visual Art. Students will learn the skills to be a creative individual, solve problems, think critically, and work collaboratively, all skills that are imperative to have in the 21st century. Students will explore both 2-D and 3-D media including drawing, painting, sculpture/installation, and mixed media. They will be exposed to a variety of artists and cultures from various time periods. They will partake in Socratic discussions, reflect on their artwork through writing, and learn how to talk about their work and the work of their peers. For the final project, students will research a contemporary artist and work collaboratively with others to create a poster devoted to the life and work of their artist. They will also develop a work of art influenced by the ideas, materials, or processes of their artist and combine them with their own ideas. They will present their final work in an oral presentation.

**Required Materials:**

Students will need the following for this class:

#2 Pencil (**non-mechanical** for drawing)

Art Journal/Sketchbook (**size 5.5” x 8”, paper no heavier than 70 lbs**)

The Art Journal/Sketchbook can be purchased at Dick Blick/Utrecht, Plaza Art Supplies, or Staples. Store information is located at the end of the syllabus.

Each student will be given a folder for in-class work.

**Behavior Expectations:**

Despite what each student expects of their peers, there are some expectations that I have of each student:

1. Each student is responsible for maintaining the art studio and taking good care of the art materials. Each student will rotate through a set of art studio jobs and perform these tasks with a group of their peers.
2. Each student will be expected to come to class with a willingness to learn something new, have a positive attitude, be respectful of their peers and teachers, and be held accountable for their actions. They are not allowed to sit in class and do nothing. They will be excused from class if they refuse to participate. Their participation grade will also reflect this.
3. Students are responsible for any make-up work if they are absent from class. It is their responsibility to communicate with the teacher about missed work. If they know they will be absent, it is best they communicate before their absence. If they are sick, they can always email the teacher with questions. They should not assume that they will be given extra days to complete an assignment. When they return to school, it the student’s responsibility to stay for tutorial or after school to make up the work missed.

**Grading and Assessment:**

Students are graded in 3 different categories- Effort (40%), Improvement (40%), and Test (20%). Students are graded on their Effort every day.

Effort consists of the following:

(2 pts) W**eekly art studio job**

(6 pts) **Participation**

See attached rubric.

Each day the students will be assessed on the above and can earn up to 8 points. At the end of each week, their daily Effort grades will be averaged and be posted in PowerSchool.

One test will be given at the end of the semester. The students will be taught how to answer the methods of the questions on the test. The questions will encourage divergent thinking and creative responses instead of memorization. They will be given a study guide in preparation for the test, and we will practice exercises on the study guide in class.

Students will also be assessed at the end of each project on how well they have improved and how well they have applied the concepts that they have learned.

**\*Note:** Seventh graders are given bi-weekly Art Journal assignments and daily homework when applicable. The daily homework assignment will be graded separately, and the grade will be averaged into the weekly Effort grade.

The Art Journal will be assessed every other Monday (or the first day of the week if Monday is a holiday). Students will be reminded weekly of this assignment. The journal entry will be checked for completion, and a homework grade will be averaged into the weekly Effort grade. At the end of the semester, the Art Journal will be due for grading. It will be weighted like a project grade at 40%.

**\*Optional materials needed for the production of Art Journal entries are a set of markers, crayons, or colored pencils; a set of Crayola watercolor paints, which comes with a brush; a ruler or straightedge; and a glue stick. These items may be kept at home.**